



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SORIA PLEADS GUILTY TO ROLE IN TORTURE OF TWO ILLEGAL ALIENS

TUCSON – Hector Soria, 23, of Tucson, pleaded guilty here Wednesday in federal district court to five felony federal charges related to his role in the torture of two illegal aliens.

Hector Soria had been charged with Conspiracy to Harbor Illegal Aliens for Profit, Harboring an Illegal Alien for Profit and During Said Offense Committed Serious Bodily Injury to or Placed in Jeopardy the Life of an Alien, Harboring an Illegal Alien for Profit, Conspiracy to Hostage Take, and Hostage Taking. The charge stem from a September 22, 2003 incident at a trailer in Three Points, Ariz. The investigation of the incident revealed that on that date, Hector Soria and Barry Van Brocklin held and detained the two illegal aliens against their wills. Van Brocklin was armed with a shovel which he held in a threatening manner against the aliens and blocked the only exit to the trailer so that the aliens could not escape. Soria then beat both aliens with his belt buckle, cut the aliens with a knife, stabbed one of the aliens with a screwdriver, and then knocked out two of one of the aliens teeth while Van Brocklin stood guard. During this time, Soria demanded the phone numbers of the family members of the aliens so that he could call them and demand \$1,500 payment from the family for the release of the aliens and delivery to Phoenix. After a few hours, the aliens were able to escape the trailer and hid in the desert for the night before one was able to seek help from a neighbor who then contacted the Pima County Sheriff's Department.

A conviction for Conspiracy to Hostage Take and Hostage Taking carries a maximum penalty a term of imprisonment up to life, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Conspiracy to Harbor Illegal Aliens for Profit and Harboring and Illegal Alien for Profit carries a maximum penalty of ten (10) years, a \$250,000 fine or both. A conviction for Harboring an Illegal Alien for Profit Wherein the Alien was Seriously Injured or his Life was Placed in Jeopardy carries a maximum penalty of twenty (20) years, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Frank R. Zapata will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Zapata on May 7, 2007.

The investigation in this case was conducted by U.S Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Pima County Sheriff's Department. The prosecution is being handled by Serra M. Tsethlikai, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

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